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# Overview of LANL's Applied Acoustics Lab

Cristian Pantea  
Applied Acoustics Lab  
Materials Physics and Applications, MPA-11

Acoustics Seminar Series  
~online~

LA-UR-21-XXXXX

# Applied Acoustics Team

<http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/mpa/mpa11/AcousticsAndSensorsTeam>

**Cristian Pantea**

*Team Leader*



**Vamshi Chillara**

*Research Scientist*

*Electric Imp Spectr  
Chevron)*

*Well Integrity Monitoring  
CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration (DOE)*

*μarchitected Waveguides (LDRD-ECR)*



**John Greenhall**

*Research Scientist*

*Machine Learning  
3DHEAT*

*Defects Thermoel Wafers*

*NDE weapons components*

*Electronics design*



**Craig Chavez**

*Research Technologist*

*Mechanical and Electronics  
Design, and System Configuration*



**Eric Davis**

*Postdoc*

*Well Integrity Monitoring  
CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration (DOE)*

*D<sub>2</sub>O content in heavy water  
3DHEAT*

*Acoustic Monitoring of Pu  
NDE of weapons components*



**Hung Doan**

*Postdoc*

*Corn stover acoustics sensor*

*Well Integrity Monitoring*



**Dipen Sinha**

*Visiting Scientist*

*Defects Thermoel Wafers*

*Welding inspection*

*NDE of weapons components*

*Electronics design*



**Milo Prisbrey**

*Postdoc*

*Machine Learning*

*Acoustic manipulation*

*Waveform inversion*

*\*Joint w/ CCS-7*



**Alan Graham**

*Research Associate*

*Defects detection in wafers*

*Welding inspection*

*NDE of weapons components*



**Christopher Hakoda**

*Postdoc*

*μarchitected Waveguides*

*Well Integrity Monitoring*



**Pavel Vakhlamov**

*Post-Master*

*Mechanical and Electronics*

*Design, and System*

*Configuration*



**Sincheng Huang**

*Grad Student*

*Instrumentation development*

*LabView programming*

*D<sub>2</sub>O content in heavy water*



# Our research - Applied Acoustics

Development of instrumentation, methods and sensors with a focus on difficult and challenging conditions (high pressure, high temperature, corrosive media, radiation, etc.)



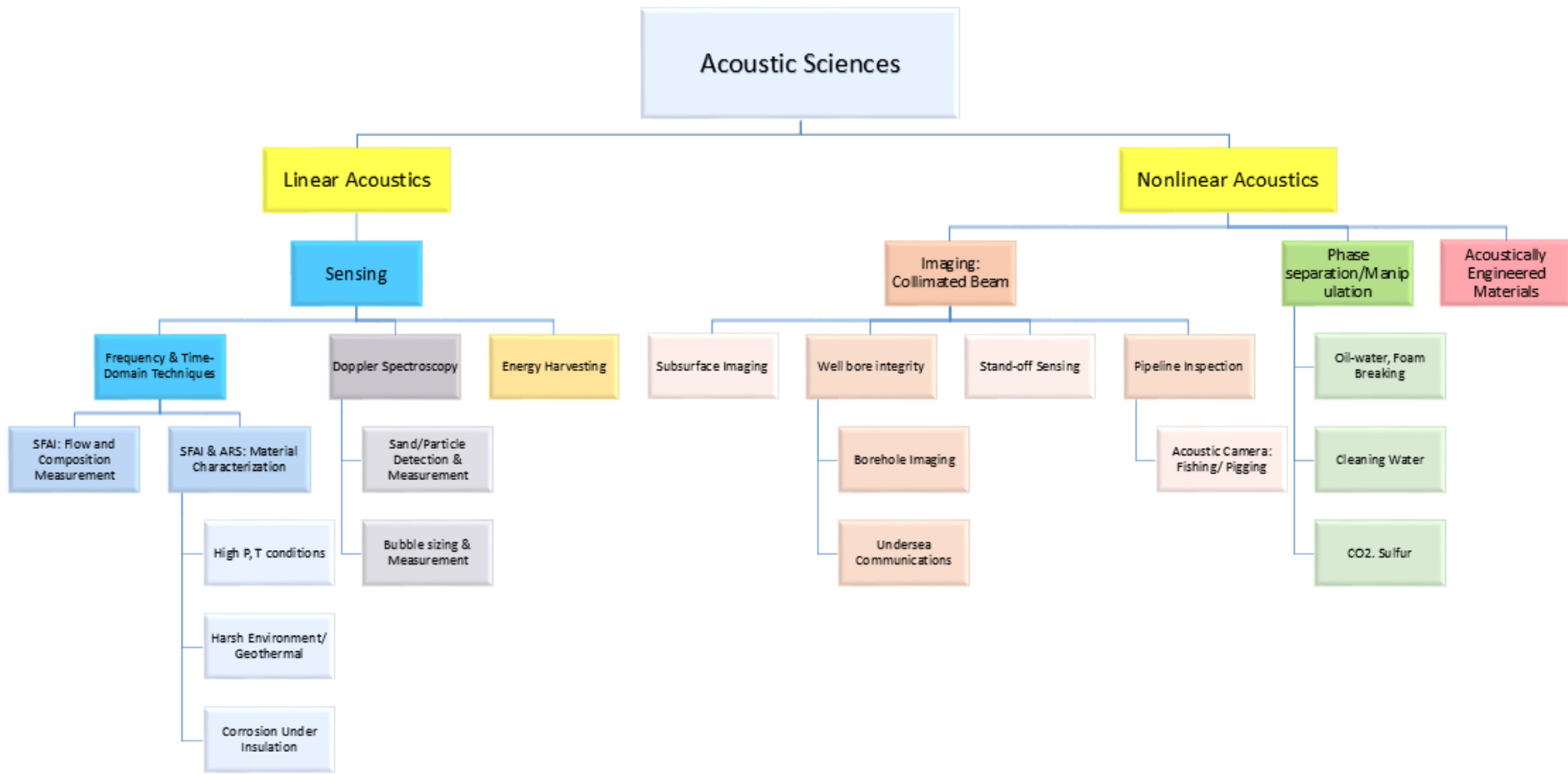
**Sensing**

**Manipulation with sound**



# Applied Acoustics Lab

## Capabilities



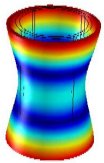


# Elastic properties determination

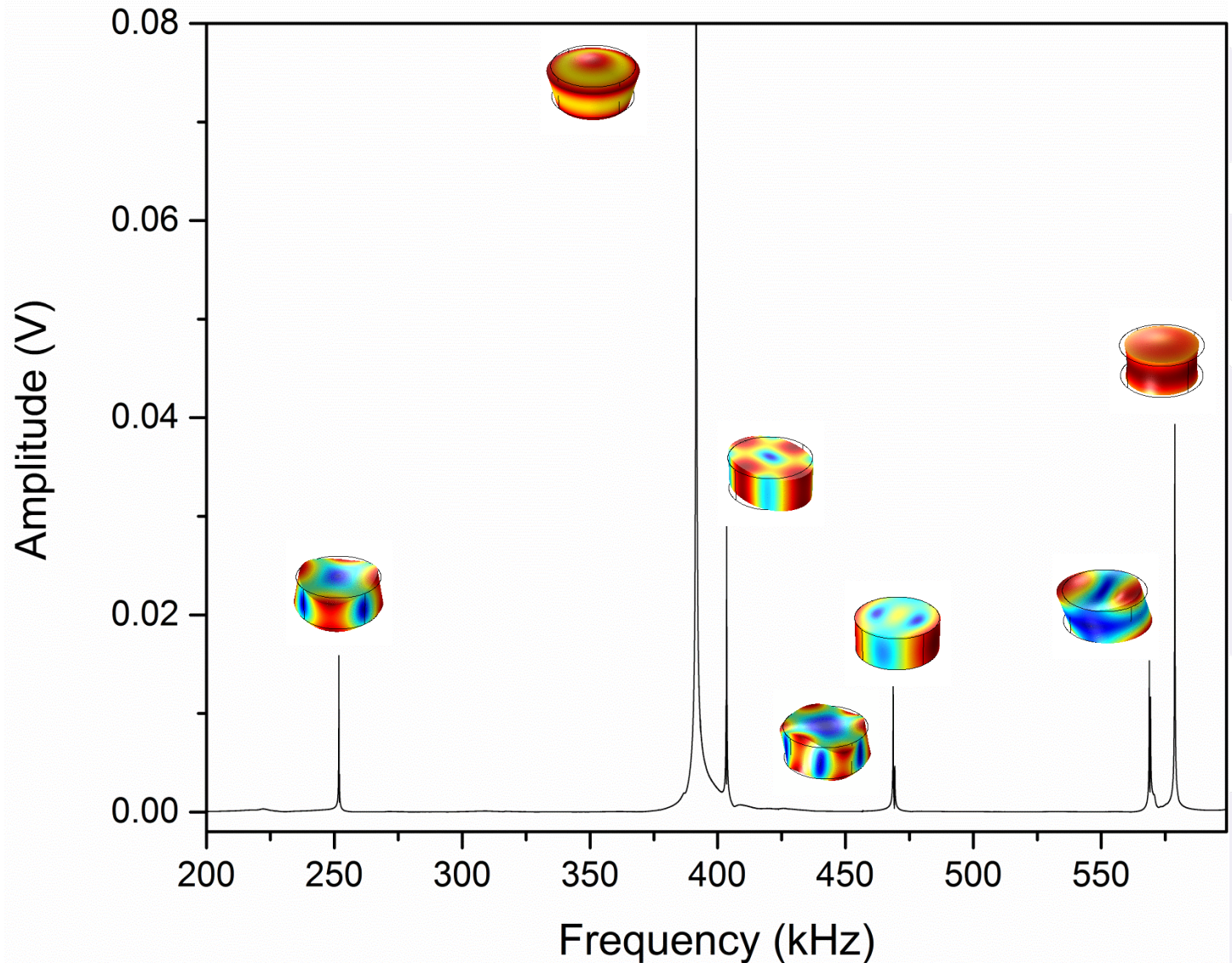
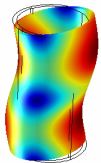
Observe mechanical resonances of objects to determine  
physical properties of fluids and elastic properties of materials

*Fluid inside pipe*

Eigenfrequency=32267 Hz, Surface: Displacement, RMS (mm)

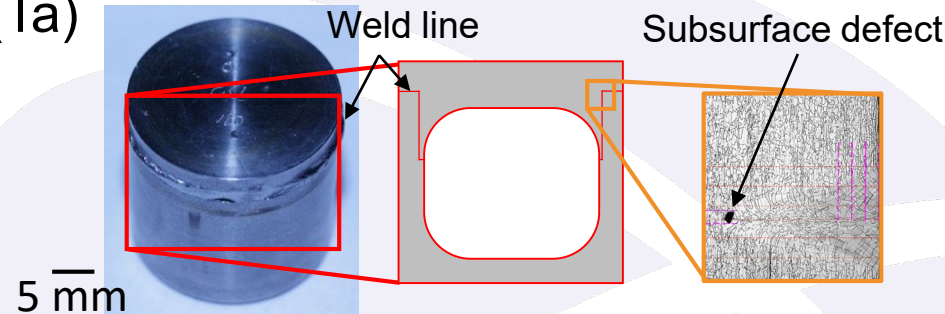


Eigenfrequency=20283 Hz, Surface: Displacement, RMS (mm)

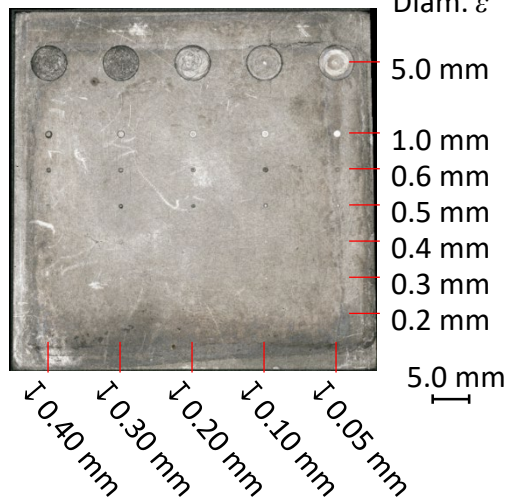


# Acoustic weld defect detection

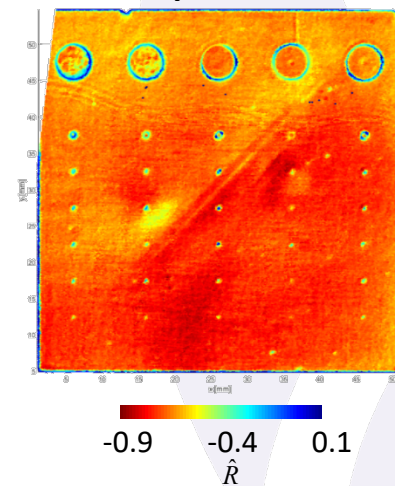
- Weld detection in dense materials (Ta) challenging for radiography
- Solution: scanning acoustic microscopy



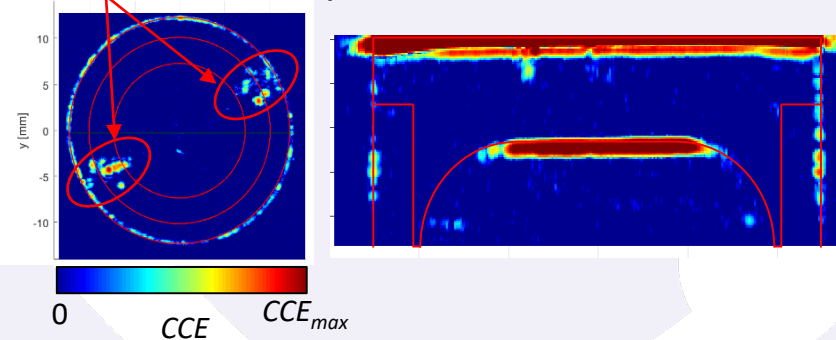
Optical microscopy of Ta plate



Acoustic microscopy of Ta plate



Inclusions intentionally introduced 180° apart





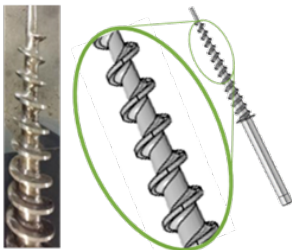
# "Smart" Transfer Chutes with In-line Acoustic Sensors for Bulk-Solids Handling Solutions

- **Objective:** Develop innovative solids handling equipment (1) and unique in-line acoustic measurement sensors (2, 3) that improve operational reliability, safety, throughput, and yield of biorefineries.
- **Current limitations**
  - moisture sensing: cost, durability, complexity, reliability, sampling volume, and continuous monitoring.
  - no known commercial sensors for real-time monitoring of plug-screw feeder wear
  - no commercial chutes with the ability to change configuration to discard problematic feedstock.

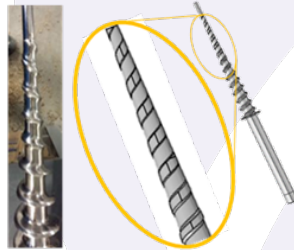
## Wear Sensor

Real and simulated augers

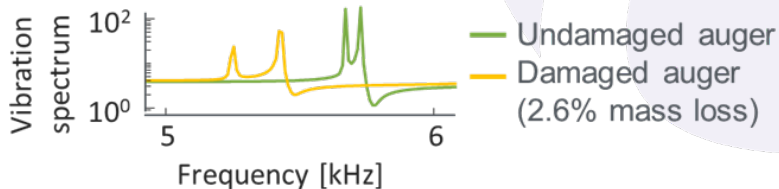
Undamaged auger



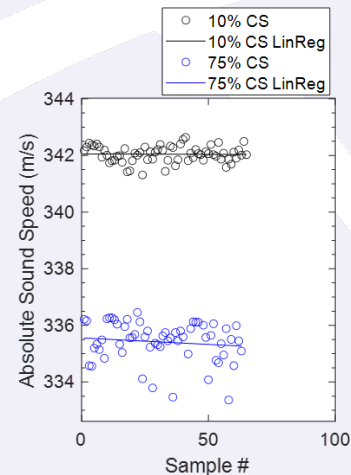
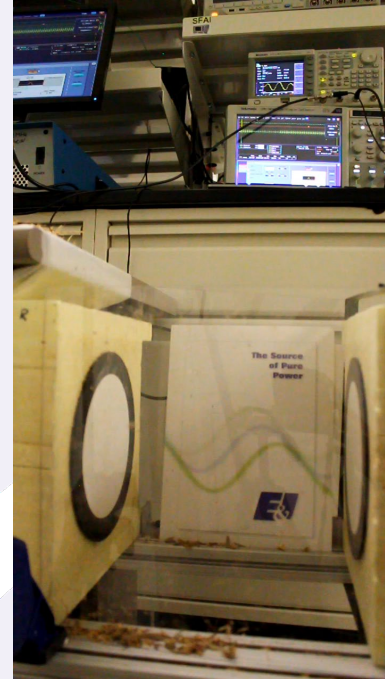
Damaged auger



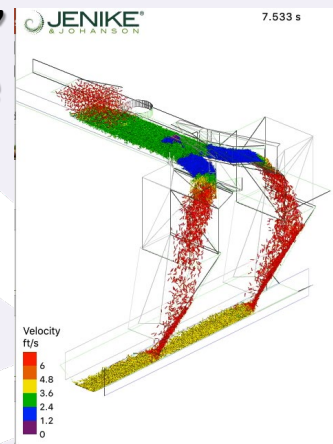
Simulated vibration spectrum



## Moisture Sensor (corn stover)



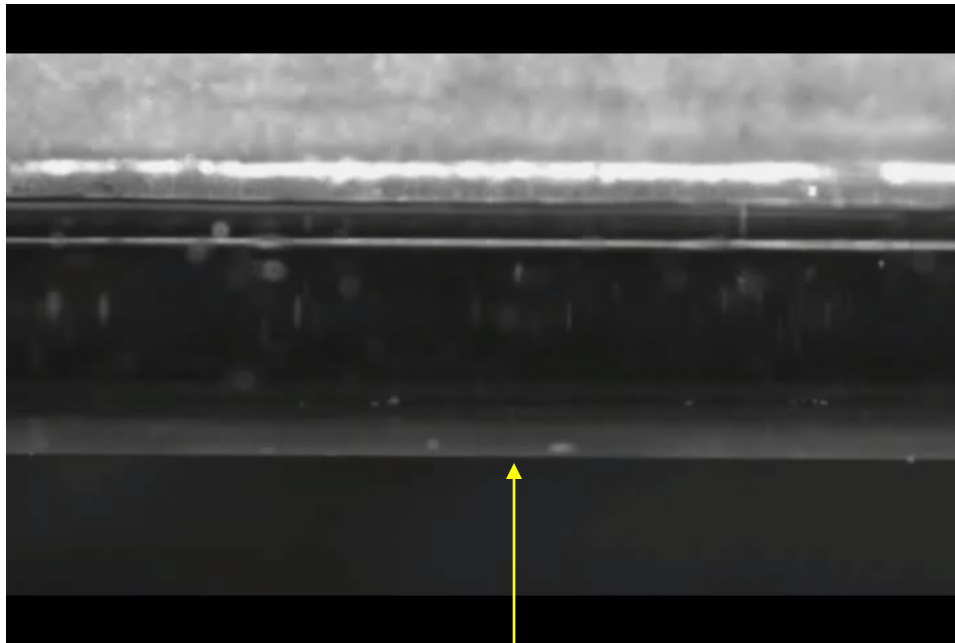
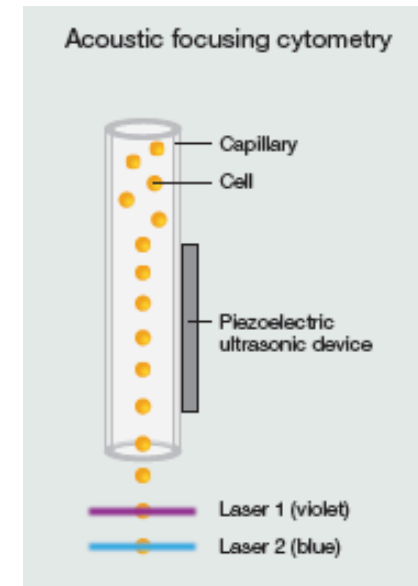
## "Smart" Chute



# Concentration of Particles in a Tube

Sound field is turned **ON** and **OFF**.  
Piezoelectric Transducer @ 1.5 MHz

Acoustic Flow Cytometer



600  $\mu\text{m}$  capillary, Flow  $\sim 200 \mu\text{L}/\text{min}$   
20  $\mu\text{m}$  polystyrene beads

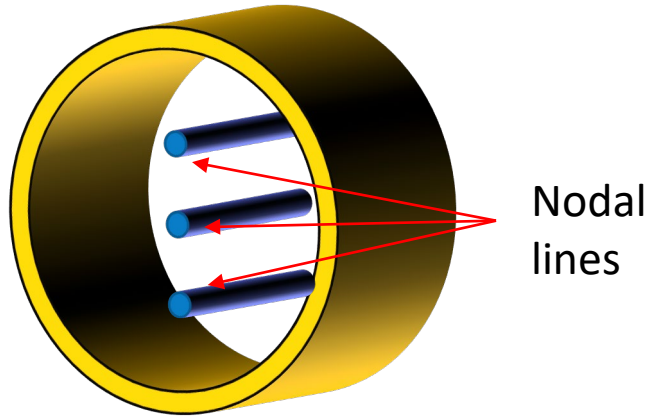
Real Time Video

Biological cell analysis



*Thermo Fisher Scientific*

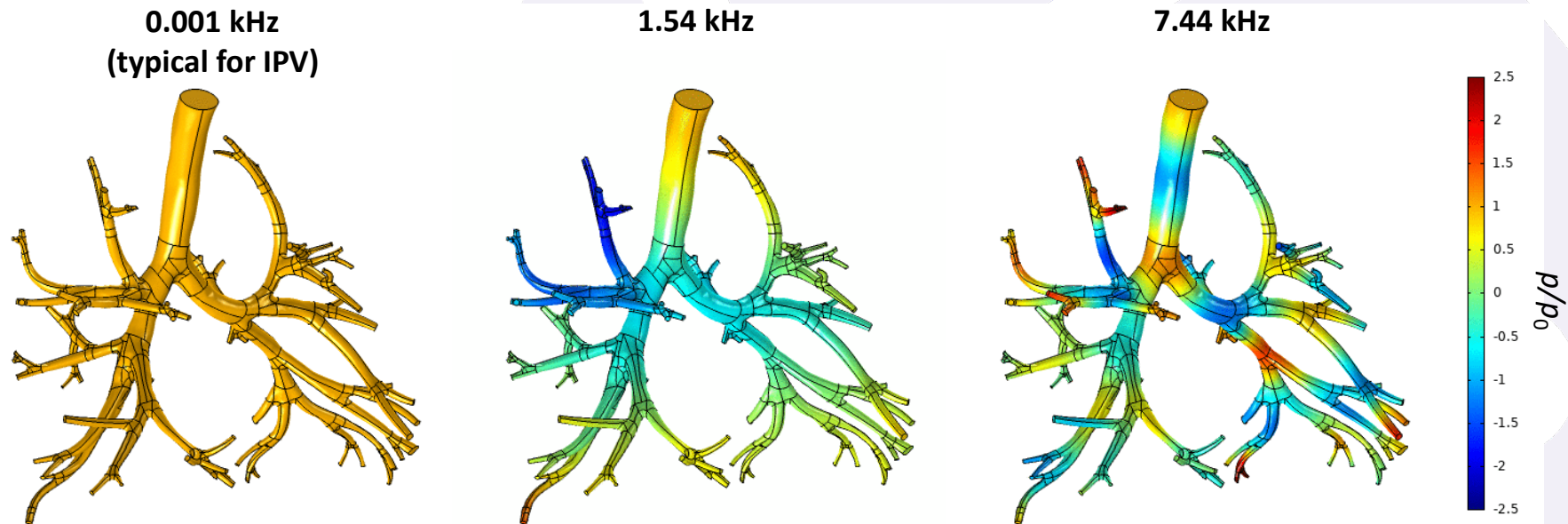
# Acoustic Separation of Humidified Air



The video (real-time) shows the separation of mist from humidified air and concentrating the mist acoustically inside a hollow cylinder using sound. Once the mist is concentrated, It can be taken out of the system. Various types of implementation are possible and this is simply a proof-of-concept to show what is possible with sound.

# IPV – targeted excitation of lungs

- Intrapulmonary percussive ventilation (IPV): Applies periodic bursts of air/aerosolized medication down the trachea to improve air absorption and mucus clearance
- Currently, no good understanding of optimal parameters (frequency)
- We simulate how frequency affects sound penetration in lung bronchi



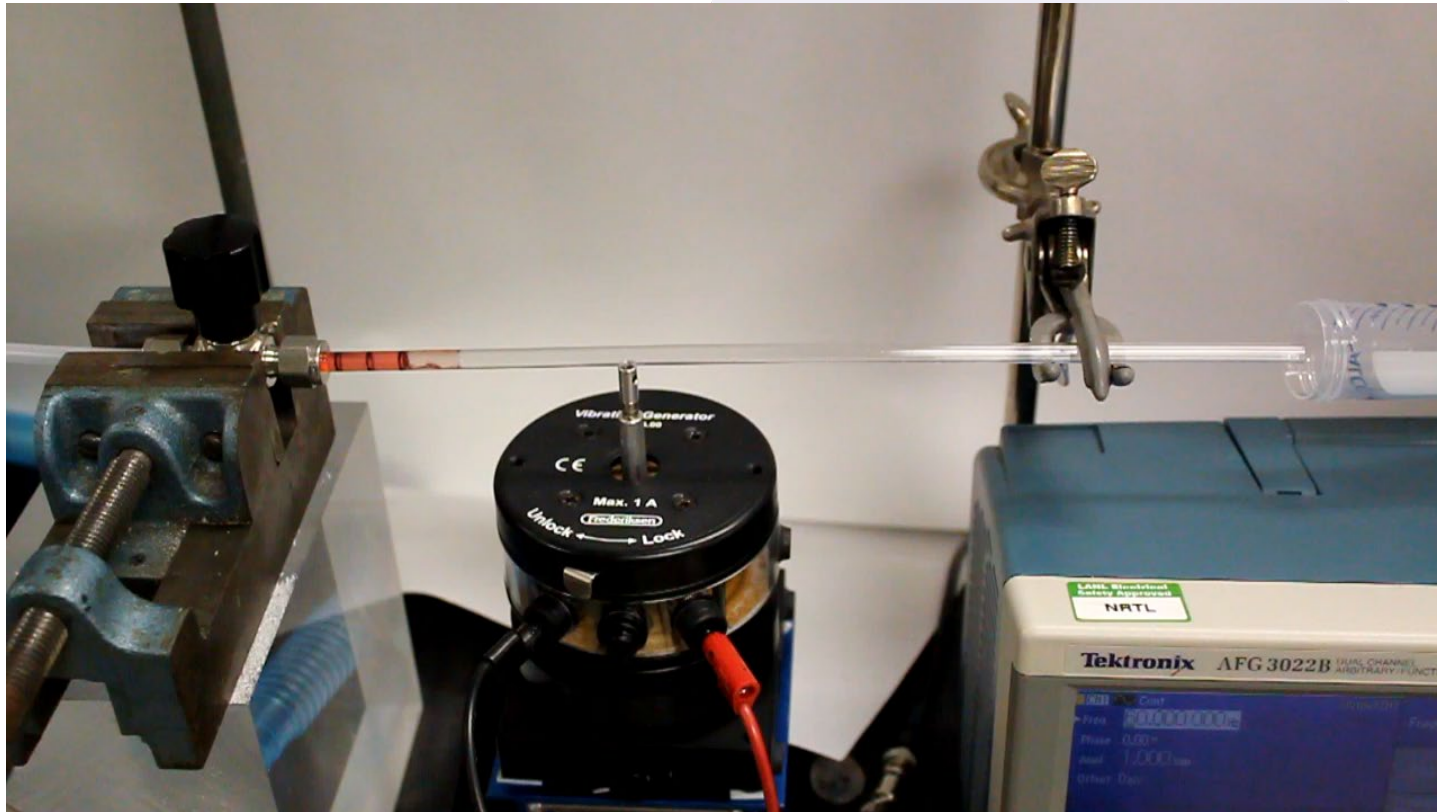
Funded by DOE Office of Science through the CARES Act (the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)





# IPV – targeted excitation of lungs

- Proof-of-principle: use vibrations to improve mucus clearance from a channel



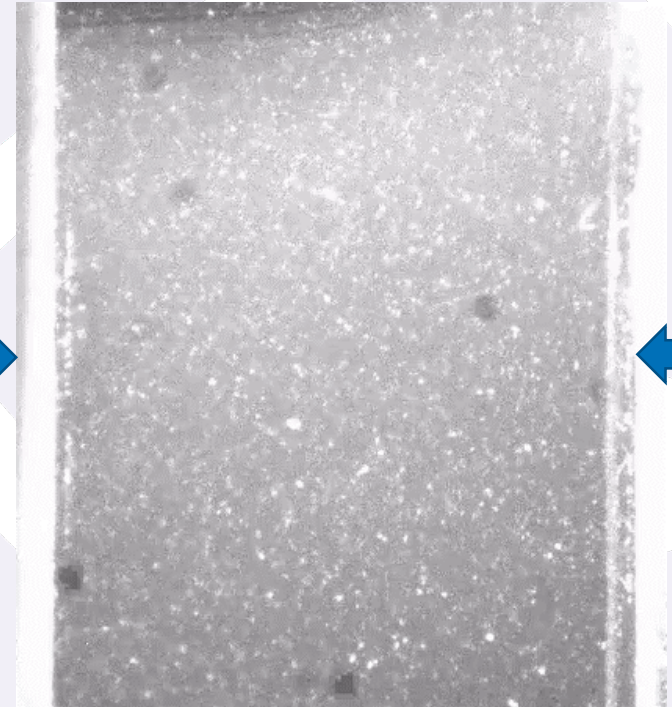
# Acoustic Separation

Non-invasive mechanical separation of any two-phase system (e.g., liquid-liquid, liquid-solid, gas-liquid, etc.) using sound

Liquid-Liquid

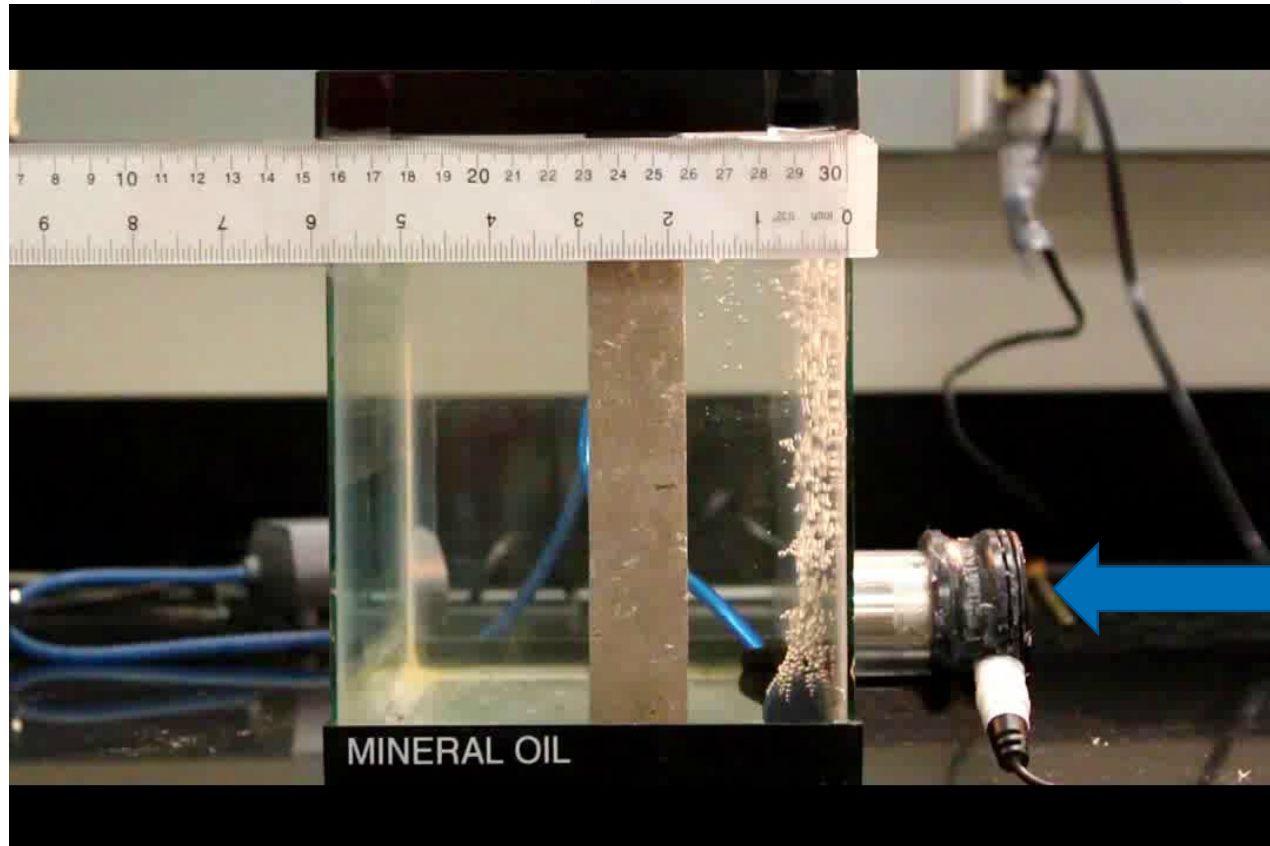


Solid-Liquid

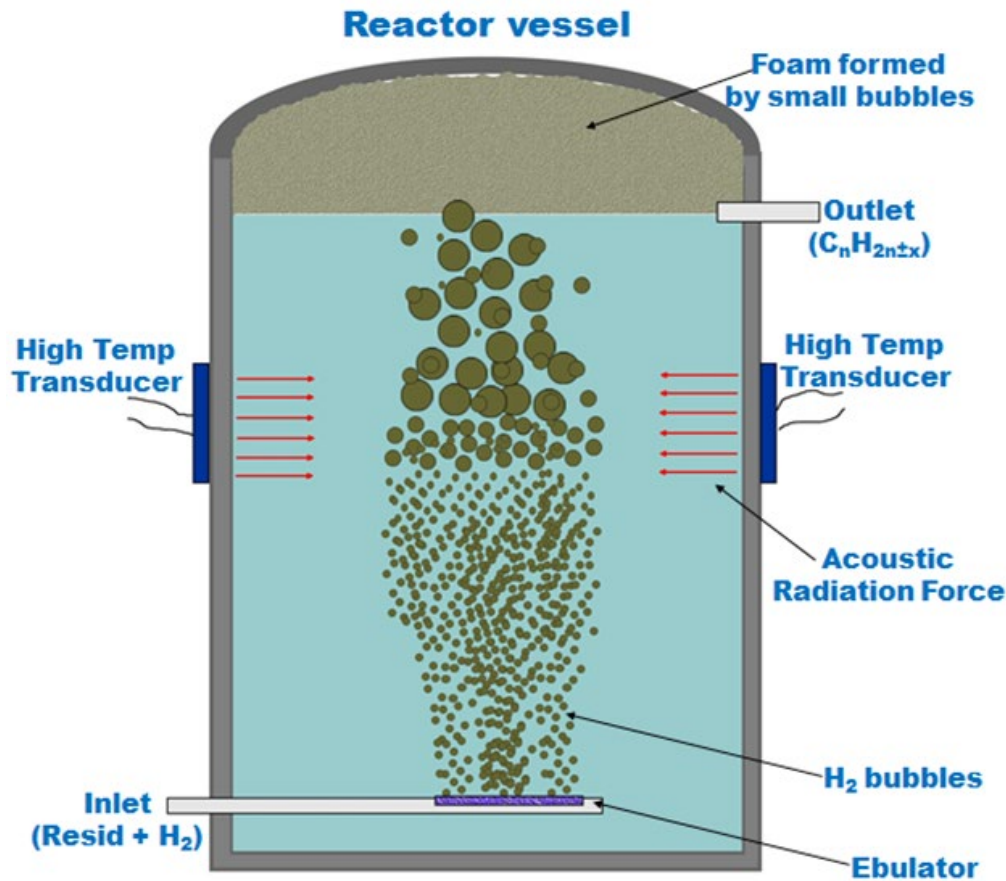


# Acoustic manipulation

**Manipulation of gas bubbles, liquid droplets, and solid particles with sound**

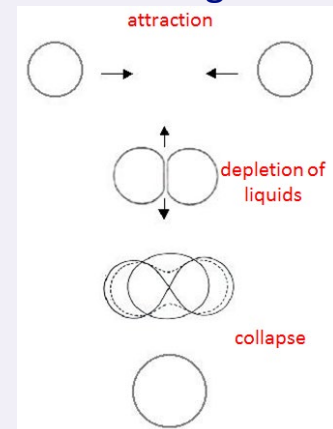


# Ultrasonic foam mitigation



Particles/bubbles suspended in the liquid, will be moved to the nodes/antinodes of the standing waves by the **Acoustic Radiation Force**

Outcome of attracting bubbles





# Underwater manipulation with sound



# Heavy Water Production Monitoring

## A New Challenge for the IAEA



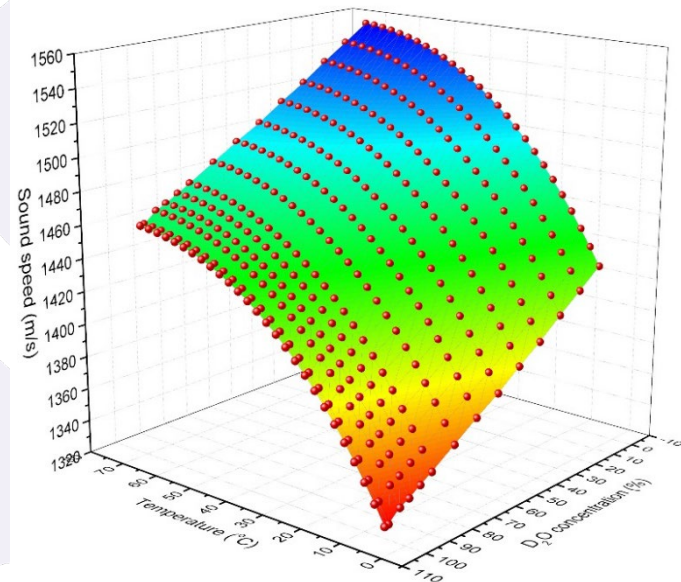
Arak Heavy Water Production Facility  
Girdler sulfide process + distillation

We can measure accurate and precise  
sound speed, to the first decimal point

→ high precision/accuracy for D<sub>2</sub>O  
concentration, ~ 0.1%

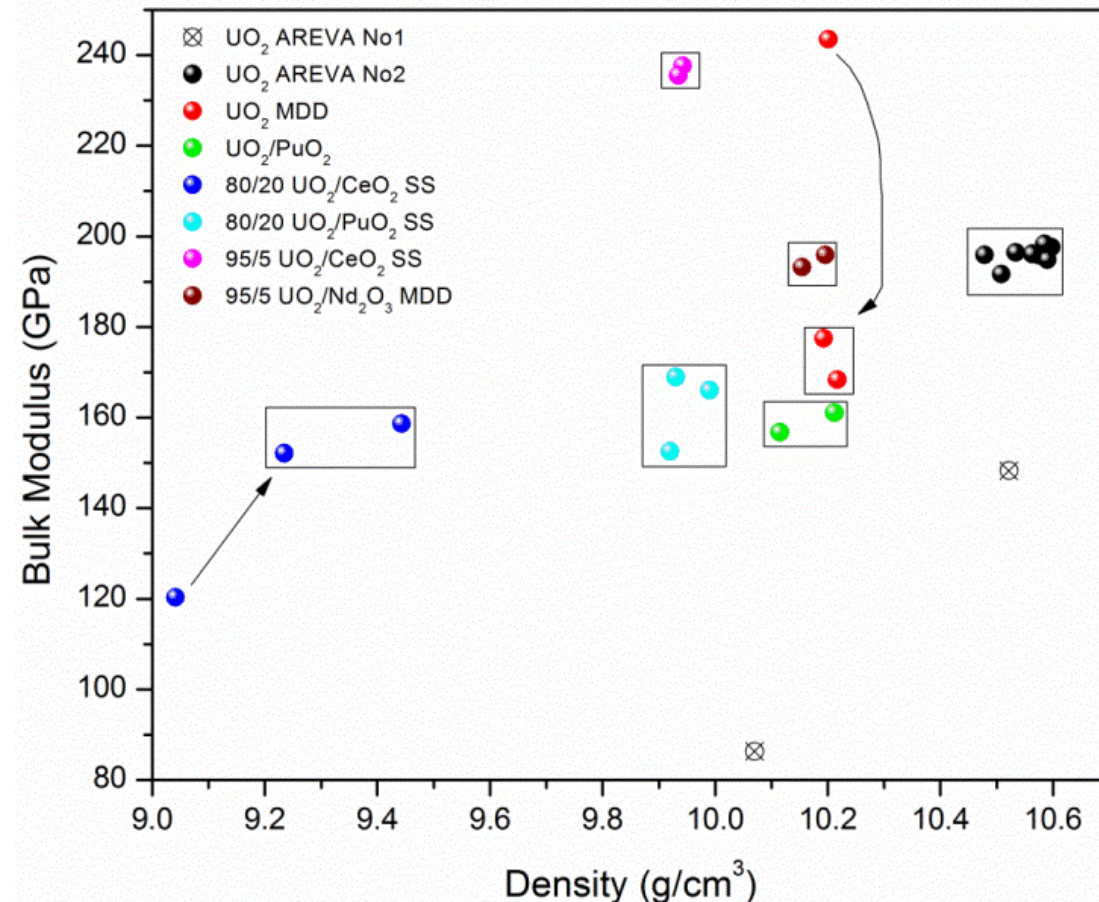


JCPOA-130 metric ton limit



# Nuclear materials identification

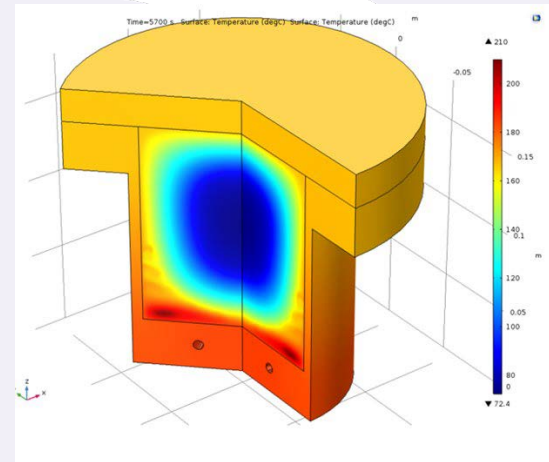
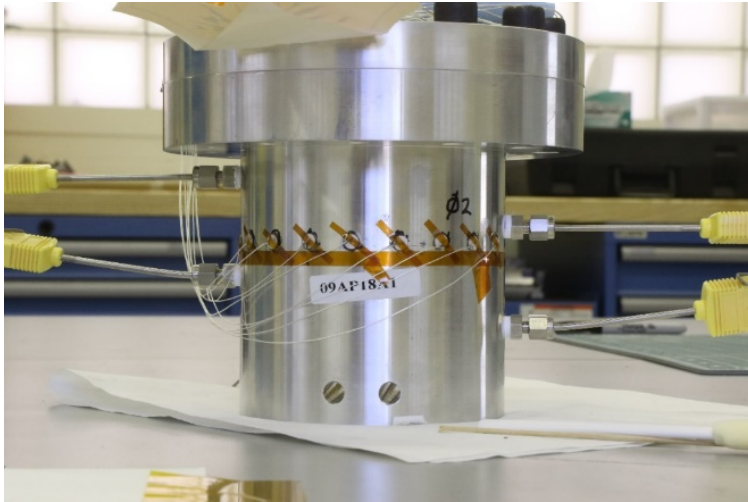
- RUS - a nondestructive, very difficult to spoof, well-tested measurement method.



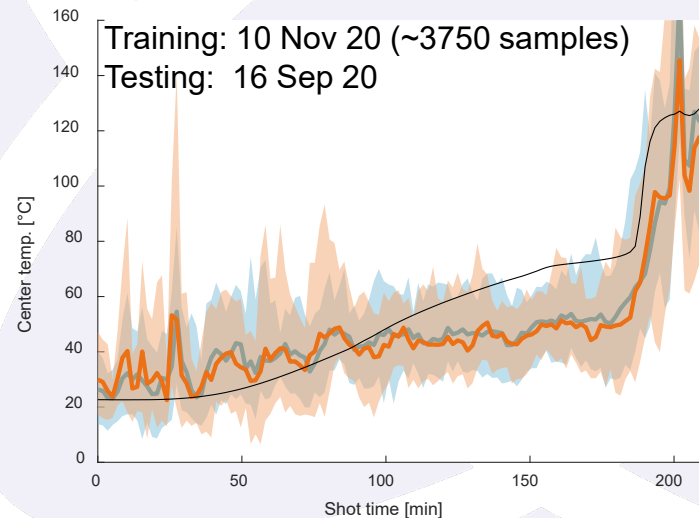
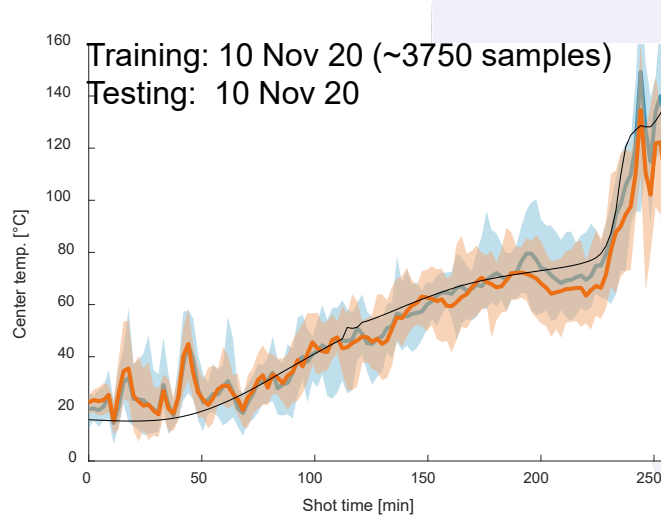


# 3DHEAT (3 dimensional high explosive acoustic temperature)

## Acoustics diagnosis of thermal damage in Pentolite



## Machine learning, CNN (convolutional neural network)





# Thank you



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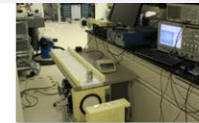
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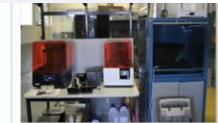
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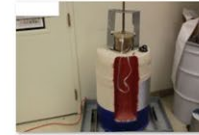
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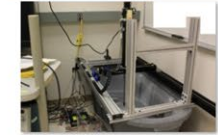
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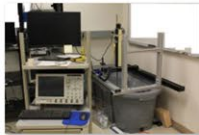
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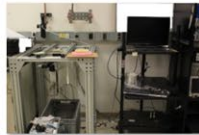
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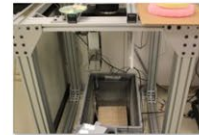
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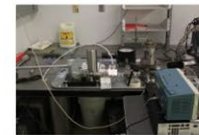
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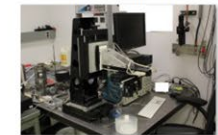
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